

REMARKS

In response to the office action dated January 26, 2005, Species 1 is elected (Figs. 1(a) and 1(b)). Claims 1 to 3 and 8 to 10 read on Species 1.

The species election is traversed for the reasons that claim 1 is believed to be generic to many of the species cited in the office action.

Claim 1 recites as follows:

Claim 1 (original): An interlabial pad which is used by fitting between labia comprising:
an absorbing sheet portion facing a body side when the pad is worn, the absorbing sheet portion including an absorbent body that absorbs body fluid, and
a support sheet backing the absorbing sheet portion;
wherein the absorbing sheet portion is formed as an aggregate juxtaposing a plurality of strip-type absorbing areas in a belt shape which include independent absorbent bodies; and
wherein the strip-type absorbing areas disposed on a central portion of the absorbing sheet portion form a body fluid discharge port contact area that contacts a vicinity of a body fluid discharge port of the user; and
wherein the strip-type absorbing areas disposed on both outwardly-folded sides of the absorbing sheet portion form a labia inner wall contact area that contacts an inner wall of the user's labia.

Claim 1 reads on Figs. 1(a) and 1(b). Paragraph [0085] of the present specification with regard to Figs. 1(a) and 1(b) states as follows:

As illustrated in FIG. 1(a) and (b), in the basic interlabial pad 14, an adhesive 17 divides an absorb sheet portion of the upper part of the pad from a support sheet 12 backing the absorb sheet portion. Further the absorb sheet portion comprises strip-shaped absorbing areas 14a and 14b which respectively contact an ostium vaginae and an interlabial inner wall. The areas 14a and 14b are comprised of cover sheets 11a, 11b respectively by which absorbent bodies 13a, 13b are wrapped to absorb the menstrual blood.

The claimed elements of claim 1 are reflected in Figs. 1(a) and 1(b). Claim 1 further reads on Figs. 4(a) and 4(b) as well as Figs. 5-12 and 20-26 because claim 1 with its open transitional phrase, "comprising," has been constructed to read on these structures. Note also that claim 1 is the base claim for claims 2 to 21, which cover many of the species cited in the office action.

Furthermore, claims 2, 3 and 8-10 also read on the elected species.

It is requested that claims 1-3 and 8-10 corresponding to Species 1 be examined for the foregoing reasons.

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Respectfully submitted,

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